

Application No. 10/792359
Amendment dated December 6, 2005
Reply to Office Action of September 21, 2005

Docket No.: T0508.70006US01

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A complete listing of claims is presented below with insertions indicated by underlining and deletions indicated by strikeouts and/or double bracketing. Please replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application with the following list of claims:

1. (Previously presented) A method of making an electrical connector, the method comprising:
providing at least one conductor and at least one loading fiber;
weaving the at least one conductor with the at least one loading fiber to define a woven connector, the at least one conductor having distinct contact points along a length thereof that are adapted to engage in a sliding manner with a mating conductor of a mating connector; and
anchoring the at least one loading fiber, such that when at least one of the distinct contact points is engaged in the sliding manner with the mating conductor, the at least one loading fiber is tensioned so as to provide a contact force between the at least one of the distinct contact points and the mating conductor.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein providing at least one conductor comprises providing multiple conductors and wherein weaving the at least one conductor with at least one loading fiber comprises weaving multiple conductors with the multiple loading fibers.
3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one loading fiber is tensioned by being displaced in a direction substantially perpendicular to the at least one conductor in a region around a distinct contact point.
4. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising terminating each of the multiple conductors to a common termination contact.
5. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein weaving the multiple conductors with the multiple loading fibers comprises passing a first loading fiber over a first conductor and under a

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second, adjacent conductor and passing a second, adjacent loading fiber under the first conductor and over the second, adjacent conductor.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising pre-tensioning the at least one loading fiber such that, the at least one loading fiber is tensioned prior to engagement with the mating conductor.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein anchoring the at least one loading fiber comprises mechanically coupling the at least one loading fiber to a spring element.

8. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising electrically isolating a first set of the multiple conductors from a second set of the multiple conductors.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising terminating each of the multiple conductors in the first set to a first common termination contact and terminating each of the multiple conductors in the second set to a second common termination contact.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising electrically shielding the multiple conductors of the first set from the multiple conductors of the second set.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising forming the at least one conductor with undulations along a length thereof, to produce the distinct contact points prior to weaving with the at least one loading fiber.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein weaving the at least one conductor with at least one loading fiber produces undulations along a length of the at least one conductor that define the distinct contact points.

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13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one loading fiber comprises at least one elastic loading fiber.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising forming the woven connector into a tubular form.

15. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising forming the woven connector into a tubular form.

16. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising spacing at least one of the multiple conductors and multiple loading fibers to provide particle traps.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein when the at least one conductor is engaged with the mating conductor, multiple loading fibers are tensioned to provide contact forces between distinct contact points and the mating conductor.

18. (Currently amended) A method of establishing an electrical connection, the method comprising:

providing a connector having at least one conductor interwoven with at least one loading fiber, the at least one conductor having distinct contact points adapted to contact a mating conductor of a mating connector;

engaging at least one of the distinct contact points with the mating conductor in a sliding manner to establish the electrical connection; and

biasing at least one of the distinct contact points by tensioning the at least one loading fiber to provide a contact force between the at least one of the distinct contact points and the mating conductor to maintain the electrical connection between the at least one of the distinct contact points and the mating connector.

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19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the at least one loading fiber is first tensioned upon engaging the at least one of the distinct contact points with the mating conductor.

20. (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising pre-tensioning the at least one loading fiber.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein engaging the distinct contact points with the mating conductor tensions a plurality of loading fibers.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein engaging at least some of the distinct contact points with a mating conductor of a second connector comprises engaging at least some of the distinct contact points of the multiple conductors with a common, mating conductor.

23. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein providing at least one conductor comprises providing multiple conductors, each interwoven with multiple loading fibers.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein engaging at least one of the distinct contact points with the mating conductor to establish the electrical connection comprises engaging at least one of the distinct contact points of a first set of the multiple conductors with a first mating conductor of the second connector and engaging at least one of the distinct contact points of a second set of the multiple conductors, that is electrically isolated from the first set of the multiple conductors, with a second mating conductor of the second connector that is electrically isolated from the first mating conductor of the second connector.

25. (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising registering the first connector with the second connector.

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26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein providing a first connector having multiple conductors interwoven with multiple loading fibers comprises providing a first connector in a tubular shape and wherein engaging at least one of the distinct contact points with the mating conductor of the second connector comprises engaging the tubular formed first connector with a correspondingly tubular shaped second connector.